



**COUNTY OF ORANGE  
HEALTH CARE AGENCY**

**BEHAVIORAL HEALTH  
ADVISORY BOARD**

Alan V. Albright, LMFT  
CHAIR

Fred Williams, LMFT  
VICE CHAIR

MAILING ADDRESS:  
405 W. 5<sup>th</sup> Street  
Santa Ana, CA 92701

**Study Committee Meeting  
Notes**

**Wednesday, August 9, 2023**

9:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.

**601 N. Ross St. CCC room,  
Santa Ana, CA 92701**

**Members Present:** Alan Albright, Susan Emerson, Steve McNally, Kristen Pankratz, Chase Wickersham, Frederick Williams

**Members Absent:** Supervisor Vicente Sarmiento's Office, Karyl Dupee, Matthew Holzmann, Tuong Chinh Nguyen, Duan Tran

**County Staff:** Annette Mugrditchian, Karla Perez, Flor Yousefian Tehrani, Brad Hutchins, Linda Molina, Nathan Lopez

**I. Welcome and Introductions:**

- Alan Albright called the meeting to order at 9:06 a.m. Members of the committee introduced themselves.

**II. Public Comment: N/A**

**III. Schedule Discussion Items:**

- MHSa Update: Michelle Smith
  - Michelle Smith provided an overview on the responses for the Mental Health Services Act (MHSa) Substantive Recommendations letter. The response to the first recommendation consisted of creating the standing MHSa advisory committee, called MHSa Planning Advisory Committee (PAC) which will be meeting for the first time on August 17, 2023, at the Training Center in Orange from 10:00 am – 2:00 pm. This meeting will include the structure of the committee and an update on SB 326. The second recommendation included to ensure Orange County and its contractors meet and exceed goals or expectations relative to the recruitment and retention of MHSa funded programs, incorporating streamline onboarding process and reduce staff vacancies that remain unfilled and ensuring salaries and wages for individuals are consistent with current living standards. Michelle advised that Orange County's goal is to continue to recruit and retain the most qualified staff being the most competitive on the market. Keeping in mind that we can't

necessarily direct folks in terms of how to run their human resources for County Contracted providers, we can only encourage this. In terms of collaborative relationships, MHRS is working on workforce strategy building out a career pipeline and strengthening the internship program. Providing opportunities for youth to become interested in behavioral health fields. Feedback was provided from Alan Albright to work with Contract staff to adding language to the Request for Proposals (RFP) prior to signing a contract where contractors would agree to stay consistent with current living standard wages. Steve McNally requested to have Contracts department provide an overview of the RFP process. It was also suggested to create more paraprofessional jobs where a license isn't required. Duan mentioned the C al Optima stipends will begin to roll out in the fall of 2023, where the expectations for the students will do a repayment of 2-years for any place that provides MediCal billing. Currently there are 38 positions available. Finally, Michelle, provided a high-level update on SB 326, to include what is happening at the State and provided information on upcoming hearings that will take place. By September 15<sup>th</sup>, there should be some updates on the language of the bill, and it would be moved forward by the Governor, where he would have until mid-October to sign it and put it on the ballot.

#### **IV. Open Discussion:**

- Review of Action Plan for 2023:

Alan Albright reviewed the action plan for 2023. He addressed the focus area surrounding community engagement and suggested forming an ad hoc committee to form guidelines and expectations for community engagement events. Alan also encouraged all members to be active and provide support volunteering at community events manning the BHAB table. In addition, Alan suggested creating a survey for the tabling events that would include questions to gauge individual's awareness of behavioral health resources.

The Ad hoc will consist of Chinh Nguyen, Alan Albright, Susan Emerson, and Steve McNally. The next tabling event will be on September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Recovery Happens Picnic.

Annette Mugrditchian provided an update on Care Court, the go-live date is still set for October 2<sup>nd</sup>. MHRS will use existing staff transfers as we are in the process of hiring staff. Dr. Kelley has two Care Court Presentations through NAMI, the PowerPoint will be sent out to the BHAB. Details on care

- Review of Follow-up item list:

Karla Perez reviewed the follow-up list and updated the members on items that are still pending and those that have been completed. She added a presentation on the CSUF Stipend Program and changing the meeting times for 2024.

- Children's Site Visit Review:

Kristen Pankratz provided a quick overview of her observations from the site visit to Project RENEW that took place on June 19, 2023. She also asked to look into planning a site visit to an adolescent program, a County Outpatinet program.

#### **V. Adjournment:** Meeting ended at 10:45 a.m.